

Claims

[c1]

1. A system for selectively setting a variable operating parameter in a vehicle comprising:

a portable information storage device having a storage element, means for receiving information representative of a particular operating parameter and storing the received information on the storage element, and means for generating an output signal based on the stored information; and

a vehicle interface connected to an on-board vehicle control system having the variable operating parameter, the vehicle interface arranged to receive the output signal generated by the portable storage device for input to the on-board control system, wherein the on-board control system is arranged to set the variable operating value based on the information in the input signal.

[c2]

2. The system of claim 1 further comprising a non-vehicle interface connected to an off-board control system, and arranged to receive the output signal generated by the portable storage device for input to the off-board control system, wherein the off-board control system is arranged to set a variable operating value based on the information in the input signal.

[c3]

3. The system of claim 1 wherein the means for receiving information and the means for generating an output signal are wireless communication devices.

[c4]

4. The system of claim 1 wherein the operating parameter comprises a user preference for at least one of the following: radio preset; climate setting; seat position; mirror position; suspension setting; power train setting; cellular telephone preset; digital audio file play list; service/maintenance history or schedule; preferred service provider for an a non-vehicle provided service; authentication information for e-commerce; vehicle access control; calendar reminder; wireless access setting such as Internet Service Provider (ISP); and vehicle service appointment scheduling based on a user's preferred day/location.

[c5]

5. A system for selectively setting a variable user preference in a vehicle comprising:

a portable information storage device arranged to receive and store information representative of at least one user preference; and

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a vehicle interface connected to an on-board vehicle system capable of being set in accordance with a user preference, wherein the vehicle interface is arranged to receive user preference information from the portable storage device for input to the on-board vehicle system, and the on-board operating system is arranged to set the system based on the received user preference information.

[c6] 6.The system of claim 5 further comprising a non-vehicle interface connected to an off-board system, and arranged to receive user preference information from the portable storage device for input to the off-board operating system, wherein the off-board operating system is arranged to set the system based on the received user preference information.

[c7] 7.The system of claim 5 wherein the portable information storage device and the vehicle interface are arranged to communicate wirelessly.

[c8] 8.The system of claim 5 wherein the user preference comprises at least one of the following: radio preset; climate setting; seat position; mirror position; suspension setting; power train setting; cellular telephone preset; digital audio file play list; service/maintenance history or schedule; preferred service provider for an a non-vehicle provided service; authentication information for e-commerce; vehicle access control; calendar reminder; wireless access setting such as Internet Service Provider (ISP); and vehicle service appointment scheduling based on a user's preferred day/location.

[c9] 9.A method of selectively setting a variable user preference in a vehicle comprising:
determining at least one user preference;
storing information representative of the at least one user preference on a portable information storage device;
selectively recalling the user preference information stored on the portable information storage device; and
setting an on-board vehicle system in accordance with the recalled user preference.

[c10] 10.The method of claim 9 further comprising setting a non-vehicle system in accordance with the recalled user preference.

[c11] 11.The method of claim 9 further comprising storing information representative of changes to the user preference on the portable information storage device upon user command.

[c12] 12.The method of claim 9 further comprising automatically storing information representative of changes to the user preference on the portable information storage device.

[c13] 13.The method of claim 9 wherein the user preference comprises at least one of the following: radio preset; climate setting; seat position; mirror position; suspension setting; power train setting; cellular telephone preset; digital audio file play list; service/maintenance history or schedule; preferred service provider for an a non-vehicle provided service; authentication information for e-commerce; vehicle access control; calendar reminder; wireless access setting such as Internet Service Provider (ISP); and vehicle service appointment scheduling based on a user's preferred day/location.

[c14] 14.A portable information storage device for use with a system arranged to selectively set a variable operating parameter in a vehicle, said portable information storage device comprising:
a storage element;
means for receiving information representative of a particular operating parameter and storing the received information on the storage element; and
means for generating an output signal based on the stored information, wherein the portable information storage device is arranged to interface with an on-board vehicle control system having the variable operating parameter, the on-board control system arranged to set the variable operating value based on the information in the generated output signal.

[c15] 15.The storage device of claim 14 wherein the portable information storage device is arranged to interface with a non-vehicle control system, the off-board control system is arranged to set a variable operating value based on the information in the generated output signal.

[c16] 16.The storage device of claim 14 wherein the means for receiving information and

the means for generating an output signal are wireless communication devices.

[c17]

17. The storage device of claim 14 wherein the operating parameter comprises a user preference for at least one of the following: radio preset; climate setting; seat position; mirror position; suspension setting; power train setting; cellular telephone preset; digital audio file play list; service/maintenance history or schedule; preferred service provider for an a non-vehicle provided service; authentication information for e-commerce; vehicle access control; calendar reminder; wireless access setting such as Internet Service Provider (ISP); and vehicle service appointment scheduling based on a user's preferred day/location.